

Remarks

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 3, 9, 11, 13 and 15 are amended. Claims 10, 12 and 14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-9, 11, 13 and 15 are pending.

I. Drawing amendments

Figures 4 and 11 have been amended to correct informalities. Formal replacement sheets are enclosed.

II. Specification amendments

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

III. Claim amendments

Claim 3 is amended to recite a motorcycle rather than a vehicle. Claim 3 is also amended to recite a bulb mounted on the reflector. The amendments are supported by page 5, line 20 and page 9, lines 4-5. Claim 14 has been canceled as a result of the amendments to claim 3.

Claim 9 is amended to recite language previously recited in claims 10, 11 and 12. As a result, claims 10 and 12 have been canceled and claim 11 has been amended.

Claim 13 is amended to depend from claim 9.

Claim 15 has been rewritten into independent form.

No new matter has been added.

IV. Claim rejections

Claims 1, 2, 7, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,793,384 to Ban et al. (Ban).

Claims 3, 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,707,130 to Zwick et al. (Zwick).

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Ban.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ban in view of Zwick.

Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections and reconsideration is requested in view of the following.

A. Claims 1, 2, 7, 11 and 12

Ban does not disclose a tail lamp for a vehicle that includes a stop lamp disposed below a position lamp, and where the stop lamp comprises a light emitting diode group disposed in an array including a V-shaped row.

In Ban, the LED's 51 of the brake lamp 48 are disposed in horizontal rows. None of the rows include a V-shaped row.

The Examiner suggests that a V-shaped row is obvious as it is merely a change in shape or form that lacks criticality. Applicants respectfully traverse. Utilizing a V-shaped row increases the effective area of the emitted light, thereby providing a wide area to the stop lamp and providing a high degree of visibility.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Ban.

Claims 2, 7, and 8 depend upon and further limit claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are patentable over Ban for at least the same reasons and need not be separately distinguished at this time. Nonetheless, Applicants note that the brake lamp LED's 51 in Ban are not in a successively forwardly displaced relationship to the vehicle body as recited in claim 2. Instead, the rows of LED's 51 are vertically arranged. With respect to claim 8, Ban does not disclose that the brake lamp 48 is also used as a second position lamp by providing a second amount of current to the LED's 51. Applicants reserve the right to file additional arguments at a later date specifically addressing any of claims 2, 7 and 8.

Claim 11 depends upon claim 9 which is patentable over Ban as discussed below.

Claim 12 has been canceled.

B. Claims 3, 4 and 14

Zwick does not disclose a tail lamp for a motorcycle as recited in claim 3. Further, Zwick does not disclose a position lamp that comprises a bulb mounted on a reflector.

In Zwick, the tail light is for a vehicle such as a car. There is no disclosure that the tail lamp is used on a motorcycle. Further, Zwick discloses a bulb that is mounted on a wall 7. The bulb 5 is not mounted on the reflector 4.

For at least these reasons, claim 3 is patentable over Zwick.

Claim 4 depends upon and further limits claim 3. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that this claim is patentable over Zwick for at least the same reasons and need not be separately distinguished at this time. Applicants reserve the right to file additional arguments at a later date specifically addressing claim 4.

Claim 14 has been canceled.

C. Claims 9 and 10

Ban does not disclose light emitting diodes of a stop lamp that are disposed in a plurality of stages from an upper portion toward a lower portion and are disposed in a successively forwardly displaced relationship to the vehicle body from the upper portion to the lower portion as recited in claim 9. As disclosed by Applicants, arranging the stop lamp LED's in this manner enhances the appearance and provides a light emitting face having a large area to augment visibility (see, e.g., page 4, line 23 to page 5, line 3).

Instead, the rows of LED's 51 of the brake lamp 28 of Ban are vertically arranged. Ban does not teach or suggest arranging the brake lamp LED's 51 so that they are forwardly displaced from the upper portion to the lower portion.

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For at least these reasons, claim 9 is patentable over Ban.

Claim 10 has been canceled.

D. Claim 13

Claim 13 depends upon and further limits claim 9. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that this claim is patentable over Ban for at least the same reasons given for claim 9 and need not be separately distinguished at this time. Applicants reserve the right to file additional arguments at a later date specifically addressing claim 13.

V. Allowable subject matter

The indicated allowability of claims 5, 6, 8 and 15 is noted with appreciation. Claim 15 has been rewritten into independent form. Claims 5, 6, and 8 remain allowable.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the claims are allowable. Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney at (612) 455-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings

Figure 4 has been amended by replacing upper reference numeral "213" at the left side of the Figure with the reference numeral "231", and by replacing lower reference numeral "213" at the left side of the Figure with the reference numeral "232". This change is supported by page 7, lines 1-7 and Figure 6.

Figure 11 has been amended by adding the reference numeral "23" referencing the lens. This amendments is supported by page 9, line 3.